

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computing environment for propagating annotations to electronic documents among a plurality of computer users, a method for sharing handwritten annotation data related to one or more pages of a document among a plurality of computer users associated with the document, the method comprising:

an act of receiving handwritten annotation data from a first user among a plurality of computer users, each user having annotation access to a public data entry area available to each of the plurality of users, the public data entry area for sharing handwritten annotations received from one or more of the plurality of users with one or more other of the plurality of users such that handwritten annotations appear to be written on a common display surface shared among the plurality of users;

an act of determining that the handwritten annotation data is public data;

an act of automatically writing the handwritten annotation data of the first user to a public data entry area in response to the determination that the handwritten annotation data is public data;

an act of receiving a subscription request from one or more of the plurality of computer users to subscribe to the first user's annotations;

an act of adding at least one of the plurality of computer users to a list of subscribers that are subscribed to access the first user's handwritten annotations based on the received subscription request;

an act of selectively denying on a per-user basis at least one of the plurality of computer users from being added to the list of subscribers that are subscribed to access the first user's handwritten annotations based on the received subscription request; and

an act of distributing the first user's handwritten annotations to those recipient subscribers computer users that are on the list of subscribers to access the first user's annotations; and

an act of preventing distribution of the first user's handwritten annotations to those users that were selectively denied from being added to the list of subscribers subscribed to access the

first user's handwritten annotations.

2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein distributing the annotation data to at least one recipient subscriber comprises combining the handwritten annotation data with other annotation data on the public data entry area.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the public data entry area corresponds to a page of a publication, and wherein receiving handwritten annotation data comprises receiving handwritten strokes corresponding to the page.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein distributing the annotation data to at least one recipient subscriber comprises combining the handwritten annotation data with other annotation data on a graffiti page.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein receiving handwritten annotation data comprises receiving handwritten strokes independent of any page of a publication.
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein sending the handwritten annotation data comprises automatically updating a subscriber.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising, receiving a request from a computing device corresponding to a subscriber user, and wherein sending the handwritten annotation data comprises providing the annotation data in response to the request.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising, persisting the handwritten annotation data.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising, receiving data corresponding to a page of a publication, and wherein persisting the handwritten annotation data comprises persisting the handwritten annotation data in association with the page.

12. (Previously Presented) A computer storage medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) In a computer network having a server and clients for propagating annotations to electronic documents among a plurality of clients, a system for sharing handwritten annotation data related to one or more pages of a document among a plurality of clients associated with the document, the system comprising:

an annotation device that is a client of the server, the annotation device including an annotations program that manages handwritten annotations input by a first client that is among the plurality of clients, each client having annotation access to a public data entry area available to each of the plurality of clients, the public data entry area for sharing handwritten annotations received from one or more of the plurality of clients with one or more other of the plurality of clients such that handwritten annotations appear to be written on a common display surface shared among the plurality of clients, and includes at least one operating mode configured to write the handwritten annotation data of the first client to a public data entry area in response to a determination that the handwritten annotation data is public data;

a determining mechanism that determines that the handwritten annotation data is public data;

a subscription determining mechanism configured to:

receive a subscription request from one or more of the plurality of computer users to subscribe to the first user's annotations;

add at least one of the plurality of computer clients to a list of subscribers that are subscribed to access the first client's handwritten annotations based on the received subscription request; and

selectively deny on a per-user basis at least one of the plurality of computer clients from being added to the list of subscribers that are subscribed to access the first client's handwritten annotations based on the received subscription request; and

a send mechanism that sends the first client's handwritten annotations to a server for distribution to those recipient-subscribers computer users that are on the list of subscribers to access the first client's annotations; and

a distribution prevention mechanism that prevents distribution of the first user's handwritten annotations to those users that were selectively denied from being added to the list

of subscribers subscribed to access the first user's handwritten annotations.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the send mechanism comprises a background send thread of the annotation device.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotation program displays a page of a publication, and wherein the handwritten annotations are received in association with the displayed page.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15 wherein the send mechanism provides an identity of the author, an identifier of the page of the publication and stroke data corresponding to the handwritten annotations to the server.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotations program includes at least one other operating mode in which received handwritten annotations are private.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotations program provides at least one warning to the author when the operating mode is one in which the input handwritten annotations are to be published.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein one operating mode in which received handwritten annotations are to be published comprises a presentation page notation mode in which annotations are distributed by the server to subscriber clients.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein one operating mode in which received handwritten annotations are to be published comprises a shared canvas mode corresponding to a publication page in which handwritten annotations are distributed by the server to any other client in association with that publication page.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein one operating mode in which received handwritten annotations are to be published comprises a graffiti page canvas

mode in which annotations are distributed by the server to any other client.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotations device includes a receive mechanism that receives handwritten annotations published by at least one other client and provides those annotations to the annotation program for presentation.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21 wherein the handwritten annotations device combines the received published handwritten annotations with the handwritten annotations input by the author for displaying to that author.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the receive mechanism comprises a background receive thread.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the received handwritten annotations correspond to a shared canvas mode in which any client receives data from any other handwritten annotations publisher in association with a publication page.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the received handwritten annotations correspond to a graffiti mode in which any client receives data from any publisher that is operating in the graffiti mode.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotation device further comprises a mechanism for subscribing to receive the public handwritten annotations of another client.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotation device further comprises a mechanism for filtering which handwritten annotations are presented.

29-35. (Cancelled).

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising using a time-

based filter to limit the annotations displayed with the document on the public data entry area to those annotations input before a certain time or date.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising using an author-based filter to limit the annotations displayed with the document on the public data entry area to those annotations input by one or more specified users.

38. (New) In a computing environment for propagating annotations to electronic documents among a plurality of computer users, a method for sharing handwritten annotation data related to one or more pages of a document among a plurality of computer users associated with the document, the method comprising:

- an act of receiving handwritten annotation data from a first user among a plurality of computer users, each user having annotation access to a public data entry area available to each of the plurality of users, the public data entry area for sharing handwritten annotations received from one or more of the plurality of users with one or more other of the plurality of users such that handwritten annotations appear to be written on a common display surface shared among the plurality of users;

- an act of determining in a first determination that at least a portion of the handwritten annotation data is public data and that at least a portion of the handwritten annotation data is private data;

- an act of configuring the manner in which public and private handwritten annotations are shared among a plurality of computer users including:

 - an act of managing the sharing of public handwritten annotations including:

 - an act of automatically writing at least a portion of the public handwritten annotation data of the first user to a public data entry area in response to the first determination in a first color associated with public handwritten annotations; and

 - an act of the first user subscribing to the first user's own published public annotations such that the first user is enabled to see what other subscribers are enabled to see as subscribers to the first user's public annotations without the first user's private annotations also appearing on a display of the first user; and

 - an act of managing the sharing of private handwritten annotations including:

 - an act of receiving a subscription request from one or more of the plurality of computer users to subscribe to the first user's private annotations;

 - an act of adding at least one of the plurality of computer users to a

list of subscribers that are subscribed to access the first user's private handwritten annotations based on the received subscription request;

an act of displaying on the first user's display the list of subscribers to the first user's private annotations;

an act of determining in a second determination that the first user has indicated that one or more of the subscribers that are subscribed to the first user's private handwritten annotations is to be denied subscription to the first user's private annotations;

based on the second determination, an act of selectively denying on a per-user basis the one or more users indicated by the first user to be denied subscription to the first user's private handwritten annotations from being added to the list of subscribers that are subscribed to access the first user's handwritten annotations;

an act of distributing the first user's private handwritten annotations to those recipient subscribers that are on the list of subscribers to the first user's private annotations in a second color associated with private handwritten annotations; and

an act of preventing distribution of the first user's private handwritten annotations to those users that were selectively denied from being added to the list of subscribers subscribed to access the first user's private handwritten annotations.